



## John and Victoria Elia Fellowship AY 2017-18

### Purpose

The University of California, Merced is committed to the recruitment, admission, and retention of a high quality graduate student population. The prestigious John and Victoria Elia Fellowship was established to honor Mr. Elia's life long commitment to public service and education. This fellowship is intended to help recruit and support top Ph.D. students with distinguished academic records.

### Eligibility Requirements & Standards

- Ph.D. applicants entering their first year of graduate study who also attended UCM for their undergraduate education.
- Submit a graduate admissions application by January 15, 2017.
- All Ph.D. applicants are eligible, regardless of citizenship.
- Undergraduate GPA above 3.0.
- Must be awarded as part of an offer of multi-year support.
- Deferment of the award beyond the first year is not allowed.

### Financial Support

- One fellowship award will be made each academic year.
- The \$4,000 award is distributed as a \$2,000 award during the Fall and Spring semester.
- Must be enrolled in 12 units before award will be disbursed.

### Student Loan Impact

- Per federal guidelines, all fellowship and tuition support is taken into consideration when determining student loan eligibility. If the student will receive federal student loans during the same academic year as this award, please note that this award could, and most likely will, reduce their student loan eligibility.

### Nomination & Review Procedures

- Each graduate group offering a doctoral degree is eligible to nominate up to two Ph.D. applicants each year. Any applicant meeting the criteria above is eligible; applicants do not need to apply. Graduate Group Chairs should submit their nominations directly to the Graduate Division no later than **Friday, February 3, 2017 by 5pm**. If two nominees are submitted, they must be ranked.
- This fellowship will follow a multiple step review process that considers all applicants. Review criteria will include adherence to the fellowship guidelines, intellectual merit and academic qualifications of the applicant.

- First Review - Nominations submitted by the Graduate Group Chairs should include a brief description of the process and criteria that the graduate group used to choose nominees. For each nominee, the faculty mentor should be listed, along with 3-4 sentences highlighting the nominee's qualifications for the non-expert reviewer, plus any information not in the Ph.D. admissions applications that might help the review committee evaluate the nominees and their fellowship qualifications.
- Second Review - Nominee admissions applications are provided to the review committee, and the committee then makes recommendations to the Graduate Division. Review criteria will include adherence to the fellowship guidelines and the academic qualifications of the nominee.
- Third Review - Final award decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean.

### **Deadlines**

- Admissions Application Due – January 15, 2017 by 5pm
- Nominations Due – February 3, 2017 by 5pm